

The Director of Central Intelligence

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Executive Registry

177-9466/A

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21 November 1977

Dear Wick,

Thanks for your letter of October 12th. It's so nice to hear from you again. You seem to be thoroughly enjoying yourself at Ohio State and I'm happy military history is so well received there.

A review of my schedule indicates I should be able to come to Ohio State on the 12th or 13th of April. If either of those days are acceptable to you, my staff will work out the details with you.

Thanks, too, for the article on British strategy towards Italy in the late 1930s. And your comments on short-term, accurate intelligence forecasts are right on the mark. We are most definitely concentrating on forecasting months in the future rather than years.

Again, good to hear from you and I'll look forward to seeing you in April.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

Professor Williamson Murray  
Department of History  
Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

(EXECUTIVE DECISION)



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Executive Registry

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## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Williamson Murray  
Department of History  
Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio, 43210

October 12, 1977

Dear Admiral Turner,

In the letter that I received from you last February 22, you understandably but kindly refused an offer to speak at Yale. You did, however, imply that if circumstances should allow it, you would be willing to give a talk or lecture at Ohio State this year. I realize that you are exceedingly busy, but if you are in a position to and still want to give a public speech to a university audience, we would be delighted to have you here at Ohio State. I have been authorized to invite you here on an open-ended invitation. Whatever format, schedule, or time suit your schedule will be fine with us; a one day visit, an over night visit, a quick fly in and out visit. Your visit would be sponsored by the Mershon Center here at Ohio State, and the school will be in session from January 3 to March 10 during the winter quarter and from March 27 to June 2 for the spring quarter. An engagement during those periods would insure maximum exposure.

I am now fully convinced that a speech by you at Ohio State would be far more fitting than one at Yale. Ohio State is one of the very few places in the country where military history is studied seriously (there is no replacement for my course at Yale nor any interest in hiring a military historian despite the fact that 130 students took my upper level course there last year). Moreover the Mershon Center with its interest in strategic and policy questions gives the University a breadth in strategic questions which few institutions of higher learning can match.

As you can guess, I am immensely pleased by my move out here. I taught here this summer and discovered that the students at Ohio State can be as good, if not better, than Yale undergraduates, and they do not have the advantages which so many Yalies take for granted. The atmosphere is

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also considerably better -- I am no longer regarded as a queer bird interested in war or a rebel outside of the world of "scholarly" history. Even the non-military historians here regard military history as "respectable."

I am including an article which I have recently finished on British strategy towards Italy in 1938 and 1939. Because of the problems the British had in evaluating their own intelligence and in evolving a sensible grand strategy in that period, I thought that you might find it to be of some interest. If the determination of strategy were difficult in 1939, I can barely imagine the sort of problems which you face. And you are not helped by silly media coverage such as Time gave the CIA last summer. If our intelligence can give us a fairly good, general forecast of events for the next six months, it is doing a first class job. But to suggest that the CIA should give accurate and detailed forecasts years into the future displays a lack of understanding of the complexities of international society. It indicates a simplistic, social scientific approach to the world which at best is silly and at worst exceedingly dangerous.

Anyway much thanks for your attention.

Best Wishes,

*Wick Murray*  
Williamson Murray

COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
ALLIED FORCES SOUTHERN EUROPE

22 FEB 1977

Dear Wick,

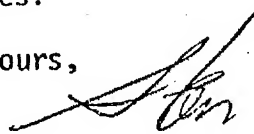
Thanks so much for your note of congratulations. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and support. As usual, your historical analysis was right on the button. I hope I can do something to get our Intelligence Community to ask those "right questions."

I'm sorry that you didn't get the job at Annapolis, but I think your move to Ohio State has probably been more important. It seems to me the revitalization of military history on civilian campuses is a most important endeavor. I'm delighted that Ohio State is undertaking to be the center of that movement.

I'm afraid that I must shun all speaking engagements for the foreseeable future. I really feel that I have my hands full in getting my feet on the ground in this new job and should not undertake anything that could distract from that. Perhaps in a year or so, things will look different. If so, I'd be delighted to accept an invitation to your campus.

Again, many thanks and very best wishes.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Mr. Williamson Murray



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